

Report to: Exmouth Queens Drive Delivery Group



Date of Meeting 17th February 2022

Document classification: Part A Public Document

Exemption applied: None

Review date for release N/A

Temporary Uses Update

Report summary:

This report provides an update on the activities being progressed by Officers following the last report to the Delivery Group on 30th November 2021. This report addresses temporary uses only.

Is the proposed decision in accordance with:

Budget Yes No

Policy Framework Yes No

Recommendation:

That the Queen's Drive Delivery Group note the content of this report.

Reason for recommendation:

This report is to provide Members with an understanding of the proposals for 2022 and the work being undertaken.

Officer: Tim Child, Service Lead – Place, Assets & Commercialisation tchild@eastdevon.gov.uk
01395 571692,
Gerry Mills, Project Manager Place & Prosperity (Exmouth) gmills@eastdevon.gov.uk 01395
519960

Portfolio(s) (check which apply):

- Climate Action and Emergency Response
- Coast, Country and Environment
- Council and Corporate Co-ordination
- Democracy, Transparency and Communications
- Economy and Assets
- Finance
- Strategic Planning
- Sustainable Homes and Communities
- Tourism, Sports, Leisure and Culture

Equalities impact Low Impact

Climate change Low Impact

Risk: Low Risk

Links to background information [Temporary Uses Update – Queen's Drive Delivery Group 30th November 2021](#)

[Link to Council Plan](#)

Priorities (check which apply)

- Better homes and communities for all
 - A greener East Devon
 - A resilient economy
-

Report in full

- 1.1 The report to the Queen's Drive Delivery Group on 30th November 2021 set out the proposals for the 2022 season. This report provides a general update on progress ready for the new season to commence 1st April 2022.

Planning permission

- 1.2 The temporary planning consent for the existing temporary uses expires 31st March 2022. At the September 2021 Delivery Group meeting a recommendation was made to Cabinet that a permanent planning consent be obtained for the temporary uses at Queen's Drive Space. The site had been "trialled" for 4 years and so it was advised that it would be difficult to justify a further trial period in light of government guidance. The advice from the Service Lead – Planning Strategy and Development Management, was that a permanent planning permission now be obtained, with the Council retaining control as landowner over whether the uses do actually continue on a permanent basis. This was considered at the consultative meeting of Cabinet on 6th October 2021 and a Senior Officer Decision then made.
- 1.3 After a delay due to staff absence, an application was submitted in January 2022. This application will be determined in March 2022 either using delegated officer powers or if necessary at 16th March Planning Committee.

Investment Works

- 1.4 The following works are being commissioned to be undertaken during February / March 2022 utilising an otherwise underspend in the European Regional Development Fund Welcome Back Fund, (ERDF WBF).
- Removal of existing wooden picnic benches – including 6nr from the children's play area – 13 nr.
 - Replacement with recycled material picnic benches 1.800 long – 13 nr.
 - Removal of Hammock timber posts.
 - Replacement with recycled material picnic benches 1.800 long – 2 nr.
 - Removal of existing Festival Tables – 5 nr.
 - Replacement with recycled material picnic benches 1.800 long – 10 nr.
 - Sun Shelters –works to include cleaning off of roof canopy, and treating timber with wood preservative together with strengthening the frame – 2 nr.
 - Festoon Lighting – removal & replacement of festoon lighting in the Play and Events area – 165m
 - Support posts embedded in oil drums –Metal surfaces to be treated and repainted in colours to match existing
- 1.5 In addition, the following are also being explored to determine whether deliverability is possible within the timeframe required to utilise the ERDF WBF.
- Bike rack

- New gates

Event Space

1.6 Update as follows:

- Marketing details are on website
- Marketing details issued to Showmans Guild and former interested parties
- Communications team publicising on social media and Residents update
- Closing date for expressions of interest is Sunday 13th February
- Assessment of expressions of interest are to be undertaken using a scoring matrix by Officers from the Events Team, StreetScene, Estates and by the Exmouth Place & Prosperity Project Manager and this will take place on Monday 14 February. The Portfolio Holder and QDDG Chair will be notified once an operator has been selected with a verbal update to this Delivery Group meeting

Fitness Area

1.7 Update as follows:

- Marketing details are on website
- Marketing details issued to former interested parties including LED and Exmouth Beach Volleyball Club
- Communications team publicising on social media and Residents update
- Closing date for expressions of interest is Sunday 13th February
- Assessment of expressions of interest are to be undertaken using a scoring matrix by Officers from the Events Team, StreetScene, Estates and by the Exmouth Place & Prosperity Project Manager and this will take place on Monday 14 February. The Portfolio Holder and QDDG Chair will be notified once an operator has been selected with a verbal update to this Delivery Group meeting

Traders Area including Bar

- 1.8 The marketing of this site has been delayed. Whist frustrating for all concerned, no doubt the traders in particular, lack of in-house resource has meant this work has needed to be outsourced. Our consultant was to have made contact with the traders by mid-January but this has been delayed until mid-February. It is acknowledged that this will impact on the previous Traders ability to plan for this season but there has been no credible alternative to outsourcing. Our consultant will make contact and seek to agree a commercial rent with each trader, and bar operator from last year, by end of February (one month later than planned). At the same time, the 1 vacant / additional pitch is to be marketed during February and should any of the previous operators not wish to proceed at the new rental level, those pitches will be marketed too, but not until March.

Big Wheel (proposed for Beach Gardens)

1.9 Update as follows:

- Marketing details are on website
- Marketing details issued to former interested parties
- Communications team publicising on social media and Residents update
- Closing date for expressions of interest is Sunday 13th February
- Assessment of expressions of interest are to be undertaken using a scoring matrix by Officers from the Events Team, StreetScene, Estates and by the Exmouth Place & Prosperity Project Manager and this will take place on Monday 14 February. The

Portfolio Holder and QDDG Chair will be notified once an operator has been selected with a verbal update to this Delivery Group meeting

- Planning consent required and this has been made clear to interested parties
-

Financial implications:

There are no direct financial implications from the recommendation in this report.

Legal implications:

The report does not raise any specific legal implication requiring comment.